



## ***National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc.***

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www.NAREB.com

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August 10, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

As members of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the nation's oldest minority real estate trade group, we are writing to share our support for the Commission's efforts to expand access to broadband so that every American can enjoy the benefits of digital communication. We share your belief that broadband service can open the door of opportunity for every American and every community, and also support our common effort to preserve our country's role as the world's economic leader.

As we all know, broadband access is not fully equal in America. Rural areas tend to lag behind urban and suburban communities. Lower income citizens are less likely to enjoy broadband than wealthier citizens. African Americans and other minorities tend to trail in broadband connectivity as well. We must end these divides to reach the President Obama's goal of delivering both wired and wireless broadband as widely as possible.

Expanding broadband access also will help jump start the housing marketplace by facilitating more effective communication between home buyers and home sellers and also among real estate agents and the clients we serve. Broadband connections enable faster and more complete exchanges of information, help agents efficiently match buyer and seller, and enable more sales at the right prices for both local buyers and distant clients who are moving to new communities. When the housing market is strong, so is our economy.

In addition to backing initiatives to expand broadband access, we also support opportunities to make our broadband networks more robust. In that regard, we are encouraged by the Commission's efforts to boost wireless broadband by releasing additional spectrum for wireless services and we are excited by the possible expansion of advanced wireless service as a result of the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. Substantial improvements in quality, affordability, and reach of mobile broadband as a result of this merger are of special value to the real estate industry.

The enhanced services resulting from this merger will enable agents to share information more efficiently and to connect buyers and sellers in real time no matter where they are. We, therefore, urge your favorable consideration of this proposed merger, which will significantly enhance the

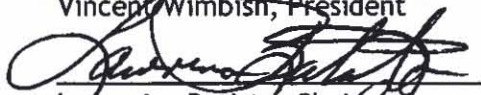
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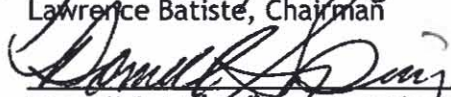
effectiveness of mobile broadband communication and significantly expand access to underserved communities, especially African Americans and other minorities.

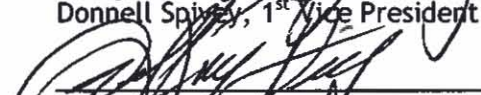
NAREB members across America are working hard to rebuild our housing market and ensure the strong and stable communities that result from homeownership. To enhance our efforts, we strongly support initiatives by the Commission and the private sector to expand America's broadband networks and to equalize broadband access so that every citizen enjoys the full benefits of the Internet.

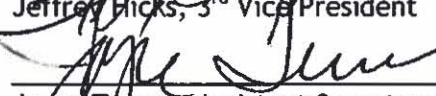
Sincerely,  
National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc. Leadership

  
Vincent Wimlish, President

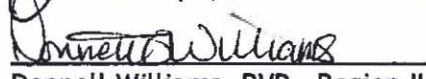
  
Lawrence Batiste, Chairman

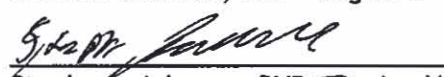
  
Donnell Spivey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

  
Jeffrey Hicks, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

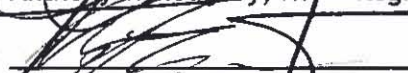
  
Joyce Turner, Assistant Secretary

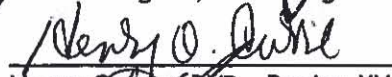
  
Gayle Randolph, Assistant Treasurer

  
Donnell Williams, RVP - Region II

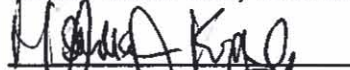
  
Stephone Johnson, RVP - Region V

  
Anthony Willoughby, RVP - Region VII

  
Robert Hughes, RVP - Region IX

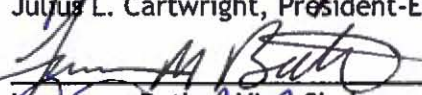
  
Henry Currie, RVP - Region XV

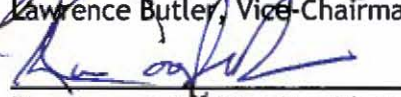
  
Roland Somerville, Director


  
Maria Kong, Past President

  
Lionel Bohanon, Board Member

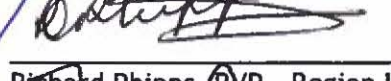
  
Julius L. Cartwright, President-Elect

  
Lawrence Butler, Vice-Chairman

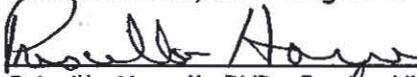
  
Ron Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

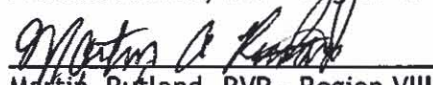
  
Myra Edwards, Secretary

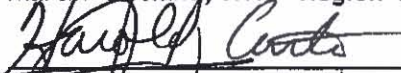
  
Yvette Chapman, Treasurer

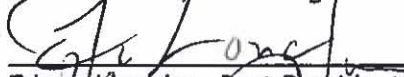
  
Richard Phipps, RVP - Region I


  
Emerick Peace, RVP - Region IV


  
Priscilla Harrell, RVP - Region VI

  
Martin Rutland, RVP - Region VIII


  
Harold Carter, RVP - Region XII

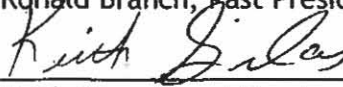
  
Edward London, Past President

  
Sharon Anderson, Board Member

  
Andrea Cooksey, Board Member

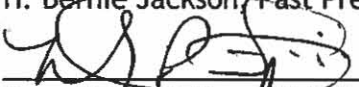
  
Robert Butler, Board Member

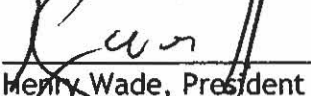
  
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Ronald Branch, Past President

  
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Keith Silas, Board Member


  
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Ted Brass, Board Member

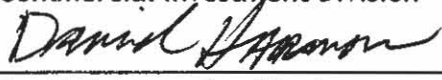
  
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H. Bernie Jackson, Past President

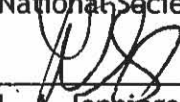
  
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Danny Felton, Board Member

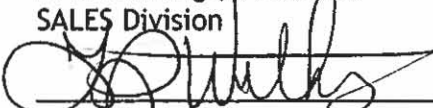
  
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Henry Wade, President  
NATPAQ


**AFFILIATES**

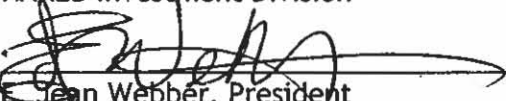
  
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Rasheedah Jones, President  
Commercial Investment Division

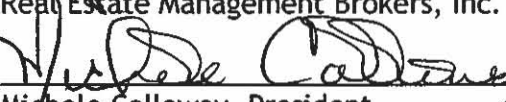
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Harmon, President  
National Society of Real Estate Appraisers

  
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L. J. Jennings, President  
SALES Division

  
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Terry Worthy, President  
Womens' Council of NAREB

  
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Ray Carlisle, President  
NAREB Investment Division

  
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Jean Webber, President  
Real Estate Management Brokers, Inc.

  
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Michele Calloway, President  
United Developers Council

  
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Gerald Dixon, President  
Young Realtist Division